To: Matthew Powelson(matt@321-law.com)

Subject: U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 87278078 - SOBA - PSI.T.001

Sent: January 17, 2024 11:56:24 AM EST

Sent As: tmng.notices@uspto.gov

Attachments

screencapture-translate-google-com-17055090868811 screencapture-www-wordhippo-com-what-is-the-japanese-word-for-db884ea5ad4a4d2a1c17339a6eab5758efed7708-html-17055091473591 screencapture-tangorin-com-how-to-say-in-japanese-buckwheat-17055091898341 screencapture-shop-towamencinbeverage-com-shop-product-rogue-morimoto-soba-ale-12-22-n-rogue-brewery-56ca8f5c7562752ed59b1000-17055095672651 screencapture-untappd-com-b-alive-brewing-soba-so-good-5051198-17055096755321

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application

U.S. Application Serial No. 87278078

Mark: SOBA

Correspondence Address: MATTHEW POWELSON 321 LAW, INC. P. O. BOX 911 MONTEREY CA 93942 UNITED STATES

Applicant: Port Sereno, Inc.

Reference/Docket No. PSI.T.001

Correspondence Email Address: matt@321-law.com

NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

Response deadline. File a response to this nonfinal Office action within three months of the "Issue date" below to avoid <u>abandonment</u> of the application. Review the Office action and respond using one of the links to the appropriate electronic forms in the "How to respond" section below.

Request an extension. For a fee, applicant may <u>request one three-month extension</u> of the response deadline prior to filing a response. The request must be filed within three months of the "Issue date" below. If the extension request is granted, the USPTO must receive applicant's response to this letter within six months of the "Issue date" to avoid abandonment of the application.

Issue date: January 17, 2024

On March 29, 2017, action on this application was suspended pending the disposition of U.S. Application Serial Nos. 86721629, 86721635, and 87015899. The referenced prior-pending applications no longer present a bar to registration.

Upon further review, the trademark examining attorney now issues the following new refusal.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES that applicant must address:

- Section 2(e)(1) Refusal Mark is Merely Descriptive (Generic Advisory):
- Translation of Wording in the Mark Clarification Required:
- Mark Contains Potentially Deceptive Matter Identification Amendment Required to Avoid Refusal:
- Additional Information about the Goods Required:

Section 2(e)(1) Refusal - Mark is Merely Descriptive (Generic Advisory):

Registration is refused because the applied-for mark merely describes a ingredient in applicant's goods. Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1), 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(1); see TMEP §§1209.01(b), 1209.03 et seq.

A term that describes an ingredient of the goods is merely descriptive. TMEP §1209.01(b); see In re TriVita, Inc., 783 F.3d 872, 114 USPQ2d 1574 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (holding NOPALEA merely descriptive of dietary and nutritional supplements containing nopal juice); In re Keebler Co., 479 F.2d 1405, 178 USPQ 155 (C.C.P.A. 1973) (holding RICH 'N CHIPS merely descriptive of chocolate chip cookies); In re Andes Candies Inc., 478 F.2d 1264, 178 USPQ 156 (C.C.P.A. 1973) (holding CREME DE MENTHE merely descriptive of candy); In re Entenmann's, Inc., 15 USPQ2d 1750 (TTAB 1990) (holding OATNUT merely descriptive of bread containing oats and hazelnuts); Flowers Indus., Inc. v. Interstate Brands Corp., 5 USPQ 2d 1580 (TTAB 1987) (holding HONEY WHEAT merely descriptive of bread containing honey and wheat).

The applicant has applied to register the mark SOBA for "beer" in International Class 32.

The examining attorney has attached Japanese translation evidence from Google Translate, www.wordhippo.com and www.tangorin.com showing SOBA is the English pronunciation of the Japanese word for the word "buckwheat."

As applied to the goods, the examining attorney has attached webpages from Rogue Morimoto Soba Ale 12/22 N Rogue Brewery 22OZ - Towamencin Beverage, Lansdale, PA, Lansdale, PA ("Soba (also known as buckwheat) is not a type of wheat but a member of the rhubard family (a fruit, not a grain!) Soba has been a longtime staple of Japanese cuisine because of its nutritional value.") and Soba So Good - Alive Brewing - Untappd showing that SOBA is used in the making of highly related "beer" goods.

Websites are generally a competent source for determining how the public perceives the mark in connection with applicant's goods. *See In re N.C. Lottery*, 866 F.3d 1363, 1367-68, 123 USPQ2d 1707, 1709-10 (Fed. Cir. 2017); *In re Nett Designs, Inc.*, 236 F.3d 1339, 1341, 57 USPQ2d 1564, 1566 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (citing *In re Bed & Breakfast Registry*, 791 F.2d 157, 160, 229 USPQ 818, 819 (Fed. Cir.

1986)); TMEP §1209.01(b).

In this case, the evidence shows the mark is merely descriptive in relation to the applied for goods. As a result, registration is refused under Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1)because the applied-for mark merely describes an ingredient in applicant's goods.

In addition to being merely descriptive, the applied-for mark appears to be generic in connection with the identified goods and/or services. "A generic mark, being the 'ultimate in descriptiveness,' cannot acquire distinctiveness" and thus is not entitled to registration on either the Principal or Supplemental Register under any circumstances. *In re La. Fish Fry Prods.*, *Ltd.*, 797 F.3d 1332, 1336, 116 USPQ2d 1262, 1264 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (quoting *H. Marvin Ginn Corp. v. Int'l Ass'n of Fire Chiefs, Inc.*, 782 F.2d 987, 989, 228 USPQ 528, 530 (Fed. Cir. 1986)); *see* TMEP §§1209.01(c) *et seq.*, 1209.02(a). Therefore, the trademark examining attorney cannot recommend that applicant amend the application to proceed under Trademark Act Section 2(f) or on the Supplemental Register as possible response options to this refusal. *See* TMEP §1209.01(c).

Translation of Wording in the Mark - Clarification Required:

To permit proper examination of the application, applicant must submit an English translation of the foreign wording in the mark. 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(9), 2.61(b); see TMEP §809. The following is suggested: **The English translation of "SOBA" in the mark is "BUCKWHEAT".** TMEP §809.03. See attached translation evidence. To respond to this requirement for information, open the appropriate Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) response form and enter the serial number, answer "yes" to question 3, and provide the information on the "Additional Statement(s)" page in the "Translation" text box(es) in the form.

Applicant has a duty to respond directly and completely to this requirement for information. *See In re Ocean Tech., Inc.*, 2019 USPQ2d 450686, at *2 (TTAB 2019) (citing *In re AOP LLC*, 107 USPQ2d 1644, 1651 (TTAB 2013)); TMEP §814. Failure to comply with a requirement for information is an independent ground for refusing registration. *In re SICPA Holding SA*, 2021 USPQ2d 613, at *6 (TTAB 2021) (citing *In re Cheezwhse.com, Inc.*, 85 USPQ2d 1917, 1919 (TTAB 2008); *In re DTI P'ship LLP*, 67 USPQ2d 1699, 1701-02 (TTAB 2003); TMEP §814).

Mark Contains Potentially Deceptive Matter - Identification Amendment Required to Avoid Refusal:

Applicant's mark consists of the wording "SOBA", which indicates that applicant's goods have and/or exhibit, (or will have and/or will exhibit) the following feature or characteristic: the ingredient SOBA ("buckwheat.).

This feature or characteristic is considered desirable for applicant's goods and/or services because "Soba has been a longtime staple of Japanese cuisine because of its nutritional value. Buckwheat is high in potassium, phosphorous, vitamin B (50 percent more than wheat) and protein, and its virtually fat-free." Please see attachment from Rogue Morimoto Soba Ale 12/22 N Rogue Brewery 22OZ - Towamencin Beverage, Lansdale, PA, Lansdale, PA. However, if some or all of the goods do not (or will not) in fact have or exhibit this feature or characteristic, then registration may be refused because the mark consists of or includes deceptive matter in relation to the identified goods and/or services. See 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); In re Budge Mfg. Co., 857 F.2d 773, 8 USPQ2d 1259 (Fed. Cir. 1988); TMEP

§1203.02-.02(b).

To avoid such refusal, applicant may amend the identification to specify that the goods possess this relevant feature or characteristic. *See* TMEP §\$1203.02(e)(ii), (f)(i), 1402.05 *et seq*. However, merely amending the identification to exclude goods with the named feature or characteristic will not avoid a deceptiveness refusal. TMEP §1203.02(f)(i).

Therefore, applicant may amend the identification to the following, if accurate:

• International Class 32: Beer brewed with roasted buckwheat

Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods and/or services may not later be reinserted. *See* TMEP §1402.07(e).

For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable *U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual. See* TMEP §1402.04.

Additional Information about the Goods Required:

The nature of the goods with which applicant intends to use or is using the mark is not clear from the present record and additional information is required. To permit proper examination of the application, applicant must provide the following:

- (1) A written statement explaining whether the goods do or will contain sobs/buckwheat.
- (2) A sample of advertisements or promotional materials featuring the goods and/or a photograph of the identified goods, or if such materials are not available, applicant must submit samples of advertisements or promotional materials and a photograph of *similar* goods.

See 37 C.F.R. §2.61(b); TMEP §§814, 1402.01(e).

If applicant submits webpage evidence to satisfy this requirement, applicant must provide (1) an image of the webpage, (2) the date it was accessed or printed, and (3) the complete URL address. *In re ADCO Indus.-Techs.*, *L.P.*, 2020 USPQ2d 53786, at *2 (TTAB 2020) (citing *In re I-Coat Co.*, 126 USPQ2d 1730, 1733 (TTAB 2018)); TMEP §710.01(b). Providing only a website address or hyperlink to the webpage is not sufficient to make the materials of record. *In re ADCO Indus.-Techs.*, *L.P.*, 2020 USPQ2d 53786, at *2 (citing *In re Olin Corp.*, 124 USPQ2d 1327, 1331 n.15 (TTAB 2017); *In re HSB Solomon Assocs.*, *LLC*, 102 USPQ2d 1269, 1274 (TTAB 2012); TBMP §1208.03); TMEP §814.

Applicant has a duty to respond directly and completely to this requirement for information. See In re Ocean Tech., Inc., 2019 USPQ2d 450686, at *2 (TTAB 2019) (citing In re AOP LLC, 107 USPQ2d 1644, 1651 (TTAB 2013)); TMEP §814. Failure to comply with a requirement for information is an independent ground for refusing registration. In re SICPA Holding SA, 2021 USPQ2d 613, at *6 (TTAB 2021) (citing In re Cheezwhse.com, Inc., 85 USPQ2d 1917, 1919 (TTAB 2008); In re DTI

P'ship LLP, 67 USPQ2d 1699, 1701-02 (TTAB 2003); TMEP §814).

Applicant is advised that, if applicant's response to the requirement for information indicates that the goods identified in the application do not or will not contain soba/buckwheat, registration may be refused on the ground that the applied-for mark is deceptive. Trademark Act Section 2(a), 15 U.S.C. \$1052(a); see In re Budge Mfg. Co., 857 F.2d 773, 775-77, 8 USPQ2d 1259, 1260-62 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re ALP of S. Beach Inc., 79 USPQ2d 1009, 1010 (TTAB 2006); TMEP \$1203.02-02(e).

Responding to Office Action:

For this application to proceed toward registration, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement raised in this Office action. If the action includes a refusal, applicant may provide arguments and/or evidence as to why the refusal should be withdrawn and the mark should register. Applicant may also have other options for responding to a refusal and should consider such options carefully. To respond to requirements and certain refusal response options, applicant should set forth in writing the required changes or statements.

If applicant does not respond to this Office action within three months of the issue/mailing date, or responds by expressly abandoning the application, the application process will end, the trademark will fail to register, and the application fee will not be refunded. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §\$2.65(a), 2.68(a), 2.209(a); TMEP §\$405.04, 718.01, 718.02.

If applicant has a question or amendment that does not require the payment of a fee, submission of a specimen, response to a statutory refusal or declaration signature, applicant is encouraged to email or telephone the examining attorney to expedite the processing of the application.

How to respond. File a <u>response form to this nonfinal Office action</u> or file a <u>request form for an extension of time to file a response</u>.

/Dominic Fathy/ Dominic Fathy Examining Attorney LO104--LAW OFFICE 104 (571) 272-8801 Dominic.Fathy@USPTO.GOV

RESPONSE GUIDANCE

- Missing the deadline for responding to this letter will cause the application to <u>abandon</u>. A response or extension request must be received by the USPTO before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time of the last day of the response deadline. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) <u>system availability</u> could affect an applicant's ability to timely respond. For help resolving technical issues with TEAS, email <u>TEAS@uspto.gov</u>.
- Responses signed by an unauthorized party are not accepted and can cause the application to

abandon. If applicant does not have an attorney, the response must be signed by the individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with <u>legal authority to bind a juristic applicant</u>. If applicant has an attorney, the response must be signed by the attorney.

• If needed, **find contact information for the supervisor** of the office or unit listed in the signature block.







Send feedback





How to say buckwheat in Japanese



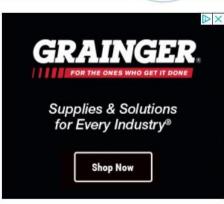
What's the Japanese word for buckwheat? Here's how you say it.



More Japanese words for buckwheat

₹ば noun ■

Soba buckwheat



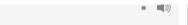




See Also in English











Nearby Translations

buck up b		ckthorn	buckskii	buck	buckshot		ckshee	bucks	
buck whea	at	buckwhe	eat flour	bucky	buco	olic	bud	Budapest	

Word Tools		Finders & Helpers	Apps	More	Synonyms A B C D E F G H I J K L M	
Synonyms	Adjectives	Word Unscrambler	iOS / Apple	Home		
Antonyms	Adverbs	Words With Friends	Android	About Us	NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	
Rhymes Plural		Scrabble		Terms of Use	Antonyms A B C D F F G H I J K L M	
Sentences	ces Singular Crossword / Codeword		Privacy Statement			
Nouns	Past Tense				NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	
Verbs	Present Tense				NOT GRSTOV WATZ	

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Dictionary Vocabulary

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Words Kanji Names Sentences Quick Search Radicals ✓

Search with English and/or Japanese Q



How to say buckwheat in Japanese



Example Sentences

soba ha sobako kara udon ya kishimen ha futsuuno komugiko kara dekiteru no そばはそば粉から、うどんやきしめんは普通の小麦粉からできてるの。
Soba is made of <mark>buckwheat</mark> flour, and udon and kishimen are made of plain wheat flour.
nippon de ha oomisoka ni soba wo taberu shuukan ga ari masu
日本では大晦日に蕎麦を食べる習慣があります。

There is a custom of eating buckwheat noodles on New Year's Eve in Japan.

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Shop > Explore all

Cigars

Contact

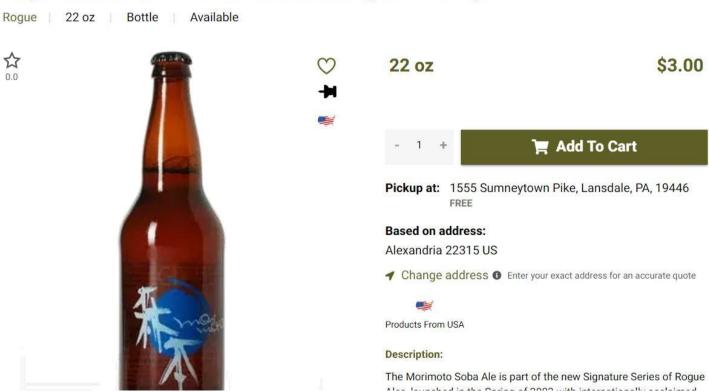
My Account

Full Beer List

Rogue Morimoto Soba Ale 12/22 N Rogue Brewery

Shop Now V

Home





* Actual product may differ from image.

Ales, launched in the 5pring of 2003 with internationally accidimed Chef Masaharu Morimoto--a James Beard awarded chef and one of the stars of the Food Network series, Iron Chef. Soba (also known as buckwheat) is not a type of wheat but a member of the rhubard family (a fruit, not a grain!) Soba has been a longtime staple of Japanese cuisine because of its nutritional value. Buckwheat is high in potassium, phosphorous, vitamin B (50 percent more than wheat) and protein, and its virtually fat-free. The fruits of buckwheat plant are like small beechnuts, which are milled to separate the edible groats from the dark brown hulls. The groats are then roasted and used more or less like a grain (a good example is Kasha). Morimoto Soba Ale is brewed with Roasted Buckwheat, Pale malt, Munich Malt, 13-17 Carastan Malt, and Crystal Hops. (Note, this beer contains Gluten.) The flavor is unique, toasty-nutty sensation with medium body and good hop bitterness. Morimoto Soba Ale is available in a 22 ounce silkscreened bottle and 13.2 gallon sankey kegs.

Product Rating:



Product Details

Type Beer

Subtype Ale

Country United States
State Colorado

Share on:







More From Rogue





公









You Might Also Like Show All





UNTAPPD





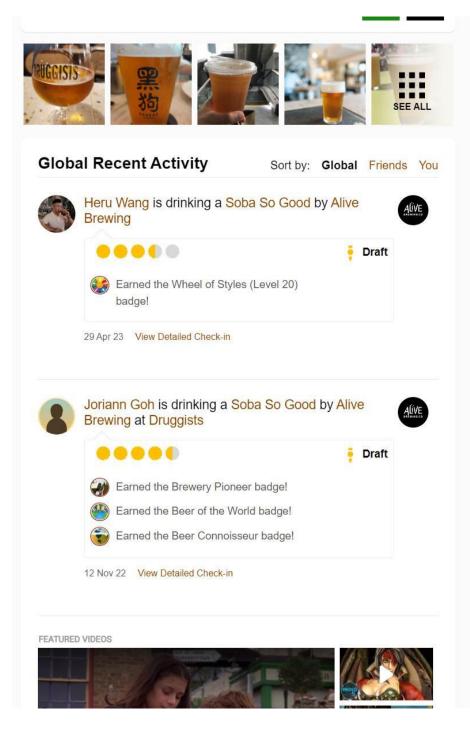
Did you know buckwheat groats are used in many ways across various cultures? We part Show More

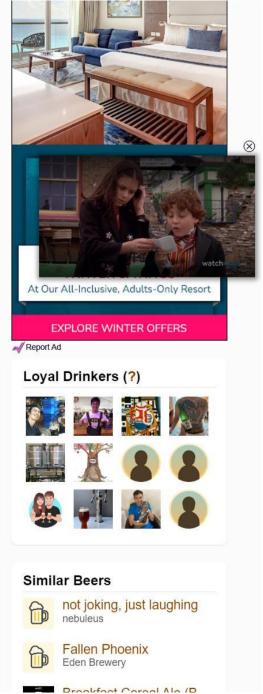


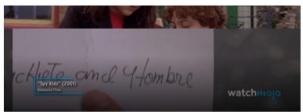


Propose Edit
Propose Duplicate















Bryan koh is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive **Brewing at Druggists**



Purchased at **Druggists**







Earned the Brewery Pioneer badge!

Earned the Beer of the World badge!

Earned the Beer Connoisseur badge!

12 Nov 22 View Detailed Check-in



Linus Ho is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive **Brewing at Druggists**

Burst of roasty malt aroma. Loads of buckwheat. Mild sweetness. Tasty stuff. Creative brew. Awesome. I crave for more with every sip.



Draft















(Photos) The most embarrassing celebrity pictures from the red carpet Masquelite

M Report Ad



9 Nov 22 View Detailed Check-in











Derrick Fam is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Orh Gao Taproom











8 Nov 22 View Detailed Check-in



Steven Holm is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Orh Gao Taproom



Super interesting. The soba buckwheat is slightly tart but also has spicy rye notes, backed up by a fruity hop bill.





Tagged Friends







30 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in



Taking Metformin? Use This Household Food To Lower Blood Sugar

diabeteslife online





Darren Choo is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Yeast Side - Farrer Park



Draft

light, nutty, roasty. easy to drink!

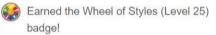
Purchased at Yeast Side - Farrer Park





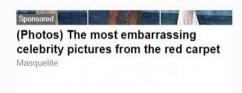






29 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in















Denzil is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Locality



Interesting one. Roasty notes, quite like a Hojicha, light.. the taste changes a little when it warms though, more soy sauce-ish. Well, looks like this one is meant to be drank fast.

Purchased at Locality











Earned the The Backpacker (Level 44)



23 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in













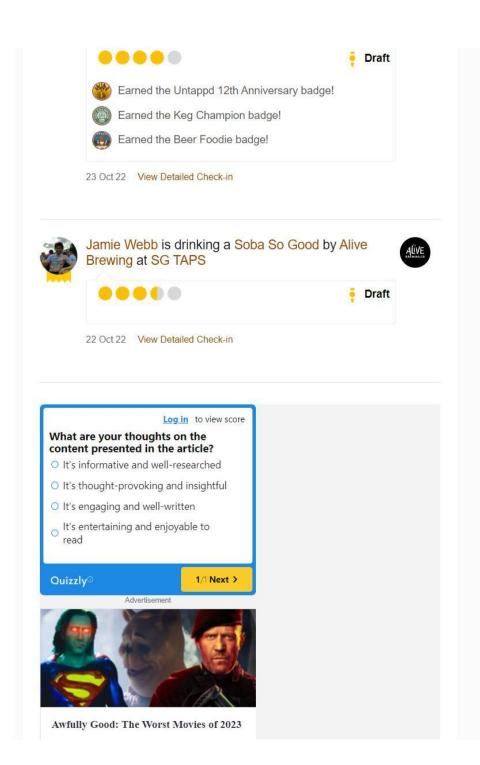


Easy yet different

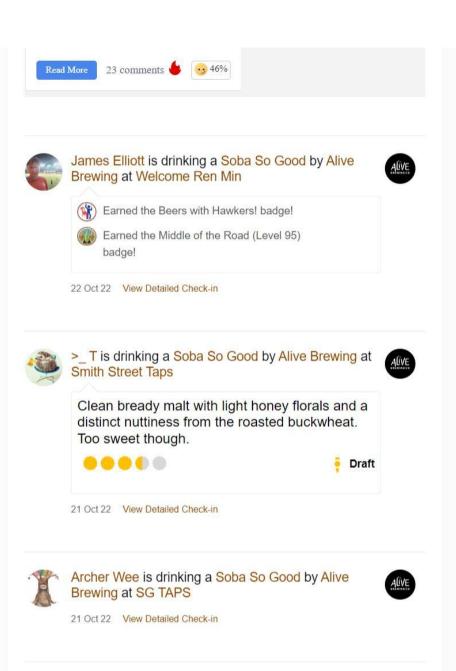
Purchased at Yeast Side - Farrer Park











T T is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing

Draft

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21 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in



(Photos) The most embarrassing celebrity pictures from the red carpet

Masquelite





Barry Withington is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Abundance



Purchased at Abundance



Earned the The Backpacker (Level 44) badge!

21 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in

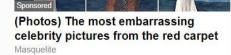


Asha Ong is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at The Autobus









₩ Report Ad



20 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in



jeffrey sim is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Smith Street Taps



Literally buckwheat tea beer

Purchased at Smith Street Taps









Earned the The Backpacker (Level 9) badge!

Tagged Friends









Kenneth H is drinking a Soba So Good by Alive Brewing at Welcome Ren Min

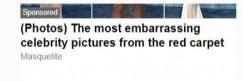


Bokhvete som gir en helt spesiell karakter. Minner meg litt om den klassiske danske juleølen. Sobanoodles er digg, juleøl er digg, russiske blinis er digg. Fifffig og nyskapende.

TRANSLATE

Purchased at Welcome Ren Min











19 Oct 22 View Detailed Check-in













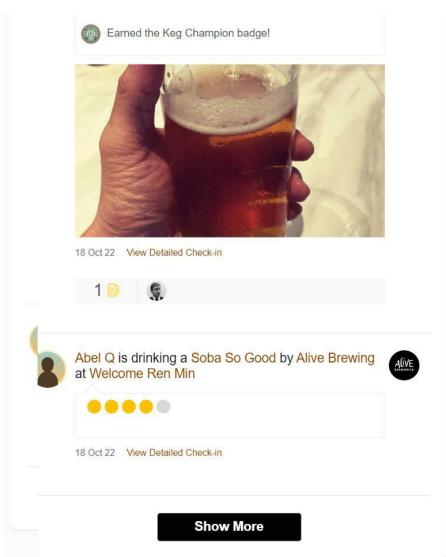
Purchased at Abundance

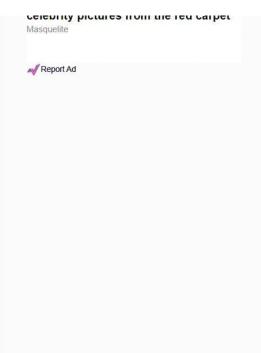












Oui upc







United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

USPTO OFFICIAL NOTICE

Office Action (Official Letter) has issued on January 17, 2024 for U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 87278078

A USPTO examining attorney has reviewed your trademark application and issued an Office action. You must respond to this Office action to avoid your application abandoning. Follow the steps below.

- (1) **Read the Office action**. This email is NOT the Office action.
- (2) **Respond to the Office action by the deadline** using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Your response, or extension request, must be received by the USPTO on or before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Otherwise, your application will be <u>abandoned</u>. See the Office action itself regarding how to respond.
- (3) **Direct general questions** about using USPTO electronic forms, the USPTO <u>website</u>, the application process, the status of your application, and whether there are outstanding deadlines to the <u>Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)</u>.

After reading the Office action, address any question(s) regarding the specific content to the USPTO examining attorney identified in the Office action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- <u>Check the status</u> of your application periodically in the <u>Trademark Status & Document Retrieval (TSDR)</u> database to avoid missing critical deadlines.
- <u>Update your correspondence email address</u> to ensure you receive important USPTO notices about your application.
- Beware of trademark-related scams. Protect yourself from people and companies that
 may try to take financial advantage of you. Private companies may call you and pretend
 to be the USPTO or may send you communications that resemble official USPTO
 documents to trick you. We will never request your credit card number or social security
 number over the phone. Verify the correspondence originated from us by using your
 serial number in our database, TSDR, to confirm that it appears under the "Documents"
 tab, or contact the Trademark Assistance Center.
- Hiring a U.S.-licensed attorney. If you do not have an attorney and are not required to

have one under the trademark rules, we encourage you to hire a U.S.-licensed attorney specializing in trademark law to help guide you through the registration process. The USPTO examining attorney is not your attorney and cannot give you legal advice, but rather works for and represents the USPTO in trademark matters.